

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested. Thirteen claims are pending in the application: Claims 1 through 13. No claims have been amended or canceled.

Summary of Examiner Interview

1. An Examiner interview was conducted on March 23, 2004 between the Examiner and Martin R. Bader. No exhibits were shown. All of the pending claims were discussed regarding the outstanding double patenting rejection. No amendments to the claims were proposed and no arguments were made to the Examiner regarding the pending claims. It was agreed upon that unless additional prior art was located in a further search by the Examiner that the pending claims would be allowable.

Drawings

2. The Examiner objected to the drawings for appearing to be a dark photocopy.

Formal drawings are attached herewith. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection is overcome.

Double Patenting

3. Claims 1-13 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims of co-pending Application No. 10/112,228.

Applicants submit herewith a timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c), thus the

App. No. 09/862,391
Amendment A
Page 9

rejection is overcome. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 1-13 are in condition for allowance and request a timely notice of allowance.

C O N C L U S I O N

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited. Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain any outstanding issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Thomas F. Lebens at (805) 781-2865 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin R. Bader
Reg. No. 54,736

Dated: May 10, 2004

Address all correspondence to:

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 South LaSalle Street, Ste. 1600
Chicago, IL 60603
(858) 552-1311